

GASSIP FOR HOME PEOPLE

THREE WICHITA SOLDIERS.

When Frank Owens was here there were three men in town who could describe battles in different ways. Owens, Tony Bruhn and Lon Hodges. Owens described a battle in the highest tactical manner. He might take up the Bridge at Lodi, for instance and tell how General Bonaparte swung Company de Rochefort, artillery, No. 10, consisting of six ten-pounders, five eight-pounders and four six-pounders, to the right flank, General Lombard meeting this movement with musketry, three rounds of ammunition, covering their advance by a flank movement of the right division. There was no powder, no blood, no cries, no wounded, no dead in Owens' descriptions. Nothing but movements, guns and their calibers, advances and retreats and mathematics.

Tony Bruhn's description of a battle dealt with the generals over-looking the field. The French and the Germans are fighting tooth and teeth, toe-nail and toe-nail. On an eminence stands General Von Moltke. At a little way apart stand Bismarck and General Phil Sheridan. Who is visiting whom at the time. In the French are driving the Germans back. Sheridan says: "Count, the French are pressing you." "I see," says Bismarck. "What do you suppose Von Moltke thinks about it?" asks Sheridan nervously. "I'll ask him," says Bismarck and forthwith rides up to Von Moltke and asks: "What do you think?" Von Moltke does not turn, but says: "Bismarck give me one of those good cigars." Bismarck hands over a cigar and goes back to Sheridan. Still with awful force the French come on, stubbornly beating the Germans back. Again Sheridan says: "Look Count. What does Von Moltke mean?" "I'll go and ask him," says Bismarck, and again goes to Von Moltke and says: "What do you think, Von Moltke?" Von Moltke does not turn, but says: "Bismarck, give me another cigar." Back, back crowd the Germans. Von Moltke is shading his eyes. His feet are shaking. In the distance he sees the delayed Bavarian cuirassiers. Down they come, riding like death. Down they come horses and men, a raging, roaring torrent. They are at the French. The French waver, break, retreat. Von Moltke rides to where the German emperor stands, salutes and says: "Your majesty, the victory is yours." "I thank you," says the emperor.

Lon Hodges tells of war in a different way. In his description there are mighty few guns and mighty few generals. It is the private Hodges thinking about the private at either side and under his own coat. He is standing in a long line, so long that he can not see either end. The sun is shining brightly. It mocks him and he keeps his eyes on the ground. Away down the line he hears a huzzah, faintly, then stronger, stronger, roaring to where he stands, and now past him. His hat is off with the others, mechanically he shouts: "General Joe Hodges! He shouts his brandy nose shining in the sun, rides by in the face of the enemy, his binoculars on the enemy, his hands held backward waving with his hat encouragement to the men, his sides fly yards behind him, for the sharpshooters are picking at the bullets and the returning directly behind him and the returning must not ride too close. And now an awful sound comes, a faint child-like cry, an echo, almost inarticulate. Louder it grows, louder and nearer, and at last it is distinguishable. It is "forward." He has started. Are the others with him? He knows not. He is marching, marching into a hell of flame and smoke. There is a strange voice in the air—his sight returns. All about him are the dead. The men who were at his either side are gone. He is leaning on the wheel of a cannon, a cannon with all its woodwork riddled, and its brass barrel dulled with polishing lead. And his eyes are open, and he sees men dead and others dying, plowing the ground with their heels in their last agony, all about him, wounded horses crying, men leaning on others covered with blood, and he stammers from the wheel and lifts his eyes to the marching white sun of a bright May morning shining peacefully on all and he mutters: "War is hell."

A PERSISTENT BIRD.
An example of maternal devotion to infant, as well as steadfast, patient zeal, has been noted lately in a case of a mother bird, a sparrow, at the Dold packing house. On the outside of what is known as the "shackle-pen" is a freight elevator for carrying up into the lulling room all "cups" and "sloes" bags which cannot climb the "chute" to their early doom. This elevator is not used all the time, in fact it is sometimes whole days that it is not required. In the pulley-block through which play the heavy cables for hoisting and lowering the car, a sparrow has built a nest, in fact many nests, for as fast as one is completed the machine is wanted, and his motion up always tears down and runs the little home which the indefatigable bird has erected for her protective offspring. All day, perhaps two days, she will patiently tend and labor, finally gaining the satisfaction of viewing in the result of her labors her nest completed. About that time a crippled hawk will require slaying, and away goes her nest. Then she begins all over again, only to have the same unfortunate experience repeated. This happened no less than three times, and still she toils, with a grim determination to locate that little palace in no other spot.

DR. PETER'S ANCESTOR.
The great grandfather of Dr. Peter of this city was one of the cabinet officers of the first Napoleon. His name was Conrad Maximilian, and he served as one of the advisory council of the great Bonaparte during most of the stirring and critical periods of the master of Europe. He had seen him in all his varying moods, in defeat and triumph, success and humiliation. He was a great admirer of the plebeian monarch, and received from him only kindness and consideration.

HE WAS CURED.
Mr. Wallace, head buyer for the Dold Packing company at the Union stock yards, and Mr. H. C. Tilford, inspector at the yards, both enjoy a joke and both like to get it on each other. A few days ago the office full of commission men, ship-pers and buyers fell to discussing the question of magnetic and curative powers of some especially endowed people. Mr. Tilford was very skeptical on these matters, and to prove that he possessed these gifts himself, Mr. Wallace took Mr. Tilford up

near a window and placing one of the latter's hands against the glass took the other in his own hand, and after some sort of weird incantations asked his wondering subject if now he could not feel the pain. It was several minutes before the dazed audience and Mr. Tilford realized that the word Mr. Wallace meant to convey was window "pane," and everyone solemnly walked away and the discussion abruptly ended.

WANTS TO BE A NURSE.
A communication reaches the Eagle from the West Side that Miss Pink Cory of Indiana, who is visiting friends here, has volunteered as a nurse in the coming war. The communication says she will make a captivating nurse. That settles it. The government takes no women for nurses who are pretty. They must be over 25 years of age. Miss Cory, however, is to be commended for her tender of services. She has a letter from President McKinley, but what it contains the communication does not state.

NEVER KNEW OF A CASE.
Mr. George Adams says in his eighteen years' law practice he has never known of a case where a man was convicted of a felony that he ever jumped his bond.

THREE FAVORITES HERE.
Fort Scott has turned out three men all of whom are favorites in this city. First is Eugene Ware, for poetry; second, L. C. Boyle, for oratory, and third, New Troy, for story telling. All three of them are A number one, and are always welcome here.

WILL SOON BE OCCUPIED.
The Sheels building, on the corner of Market and Douglas avenues, will soon be finished, and it is understood will be occupied immediately, stocks already being put in.

SHOW OF BONNETS.
The churches today will probably have a larger attendance than on any other Sunday for a year past. It would be unkind and uncharitable to suggest that this was caused by the desire of ladies and gentlemen desiring to show off their new spring outfits.

WILL NEED AN AMBULANCE.
When the Wichita hospital get into their new home, the old Martison block on the West Side, an effort will be made to induce the city or the board of police commissioners to buy a first-class ambulance. It is quite necessary and Wichita should have one.

LADIES FREE TO BALL GAMES.
Manager Alexander will soon issue an order that all ladies will be admitted free to the ball games during the season. This will be appreciated by the fair ones, as many of them here are well posted on the game as the men.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PRIZE.
In 1897 the Wichita schools children took the prize at the World's Fair for the best school work display. The blue ribbon and the certificate now hangs on the wall in Superintendent Dyer's office.

SIGNED MANY BONDS.
Mr. T. M. Lann says since he has lived in Wichita he thinks that he has gone on no less than 100 bonds. He says he is positive that his name has been attached to 100. He unquestionably has the record for Kansas. He never has lost a cent by having anyone to jump his bond.

BUYING PAINT FOR HOMES.
A painter said the other day that one of the sure signs of prosperity was when people began to fix up their homes and improve their lawns. He says that there has been more money spent here this spring in paint for residences than for ten years past.

THE TACK NUISANCE.
There is not a town in the west that is so universally disgusted as Wichita is with telephone, telegraph and electric railway poles, with signs and posters tacked and nailed about once a week some traveling bill-poster comes along, hires a lot of boys, and proceeds to paint the town poles some color or other with tin or waterproof advertisements. One of the worst features of it is, in addition to the disfigurement of resident property, these signs are fastened on with tacks, which are scattered along the cutting and side walk, point up, ready to enter a wheel. If the wheelmen, boys and girls, will insist on a war of extermination against the tacking up of these signs by promptly tearing them down when put on the poles in front of the residences they will soon be rid of this nuisance. A new member of the council can make a big and popular issue of the tacking of this city by seeing that an ordinance is drawn putting a stop to it. It is done in other cities and can be done here. Wheelmen will be under everlasting obligations to him for it, as well as the people who want their premises to look nice and inviting.

WAS READY FOR THEM.
The police commission made its hardest fight on General Volk for the council. They had him considerably worked up by their opposition and he had prepared to publish a statement calling his candidacy hopeless, should he be defeated. He was elected by a majority of 103, a big majority for that ward.

GETS FEW PUNCTURES.
Mr. Aylesbury has ridden a bicycle four years and has had four punctures, a puncture a year. The average bicyclist has about ten punctures a year.

THE LONGEST FREIGHT TRAIN.
A group of railroad men were recently discussing the length of trains pulled sometimes under emergency, and the hauling power and capacity of engines. The discussion brought up the instance some years ago in which H. L. Pierce, later secretary of the board of trade, figured as the chief actor. Mr. Pierce was then agent of the Santa Fe at Newton, and had been repeatedly cited by the superintendent to keep the yards at Newton clear of empty cars. In spite of all he could do, however, the empty freight cars would accumulate and fit up the sidings, inevitably causing wrecks and repeated warnings from the superintendent. One day this functionary hopped up on the embarrassed agent unexpected, and after taking a survey of the crowded yards warned Mr. Pierce for the last time that if he came back in two days and found those cars jammed in there the agency at Newton would then and there be vacant. The superior official had no choice but to get out of town than Mr. Pierce summoned the engineers of the pony yard-engine and asked him the capacity of his engine. He found it was short of what he wanted for, but as the situation required prompt and heroic treatment

he gave orders for the engineer to hitch on to every car in the yards and yank them down to Wichita. The veteran engine-driver only smiled scornfully at this, muttering something about the nerve and inexperience of the agent. The orders, nevertheless, were imperative, and the task was commenced. When, after hours of persistent efforts of the yard force, the long train stood on the main track in front of the depot to receive final running orders. To the dismay of the agent, he beheld 104 cars stretching away into the suburbs of the city. No conductor or crew could be induced to go out with the engine, as Mr. Pierce sent the engineer alone. He wired for a clear track in Wichita, and the procession commenced one Saturday night. He waited patiently for word from Wichita, saying the train had arrived, but in vain. Midnight came and went, and the hours dragged painfully along all daylight, and still no response from here, the outfit had not arrived or been heard from. Regular trains of importance, including express and mail trains, had to be held at both Newton and Wichita, and confusion and dire distraction held sway. But the nerve agent had obeyed orders explicitly, and he only grimly smiled, even though the smile was haggard and wan. At last, a little after noon on Sunday, the caravan pulled slowly and solemnly into this station and with the help of two more local yard engines was scattered over the yards, and for once the Newton sidings were free from unused cars. The superintendent had been obeyed.

LOCAL OPINIONS MINCED.
Joe Brubacher, the Cuban war scare will serve as a good political dividend of the American public mind.

SAM AMIDON—WHAT WICHITA NEEDS MOST is an industrial school for girls.

ED VAIL—The chessman wheel is slow, but it has come to stay.

WILL CHURCH—We will put in that new street railway.

P. W. SWAB—There will be no war with Spain.

Henry Huttman—The Semon's Extravaganza was the rottenest show that has been in Wichita for ten years.

O. A. BOYLE—There will be a thousand visitors here on the occasion of the "Messiah."

Mayor Ross—There never has been a time since the boom when there was so much building improvement in Wichita as now.

Rufe Cone—Stanley will be elected governor.

J. Giles Smith—Leedy is still governor, but his police board in Wichita has lost its grip.

On Superintendent F. T. Dolan's division of the Santa Fe there have been constructed in the last year 7,500 feet of iron bridges to replace wooden ones. Other new bridges are now in course of construction, and limestone culverts are being put down everywhere. The division at Wichita ran about \$200,000, Wellington \$100,000, and Perry, O. T., \$100,000.

QUESTION OF MAJORITIES.
J. Giles Smith, recently elected to the council from the Third ward, had a majority of 23 votes. The first time he had a majority of only 4. This time will make an increase of 15 votes in four years. Figuring on the probability of a natural life-time, Mr. Smith arrives at the conclusion that he will run for the council twenty terms more. What he wants to know is what his last majority will be.

A PATROLMAN'S ASSISTANT.
Patrolman Stewart has a big dog that makes the rounds of Mr. Stewart's beat at night as regularly as Mr. Stewart himself. Two or three times during the night he will make the back doors of all the business houses on the beat, and can tell in an instant when a door is unfastened. Not long ago this dog found a negro trying to break into a North Main street place and gave the alarm. The negro tried to get away but was detained by the dog till Mr. Stewart arrived and put the burglar under arrest.

STILL TAKING MRS. LEASE'S ADVICE.
An Irishman who has watched the Eagle bulletin boards since the Cuban difficulty walked into the crowd Thursday morning surrounded the board and asked Dr. Schuler to tell him the latest, as he had forgotten his glasses.

"The Sagasta people, aided by the Populists, are about to riot in Madrid," said the doctor.

"Ah, Populists there, too, and a racket like as usual. They ought to be transported to Ireland and put after the British governor."

THOUGHT IT HAD COME.
The greatest war of movement in Wichita the past week occurred at the Eagle bulletin board Thursday. Reports all indicated war, saying that Lee had left Havana and the family of Woodford had left Madrid. Discussion was high, when suddenly a bicycle tire exploded with a sharp sound. The sidewalk was cleared.

OUTDOING HIS CAT.
There is a man living in Wichita who has been laid out for dead twice. He is now living, and a tale, hearty old man. Twice in his life he has been prepared for burial, and supposed beyond any question to be dead. The first time the cause of this strange phenomenon was a severe accident affecting the spine and neck. From both these approaches to the brink of the grave he recovered and has lived many years since.

STYLE IN SMOKE-STACKS.
People who are observing may have noticed that in the past few years none of the big locomotives on the railroads have the "pot boiler" smoke-stack that was once universal. Formerly the engine was shorter by about three feet, and the chimney had a funnel shape cap covered with fine wire which was the spark arrester. Every engine in the country used to be equipped up to a very few years ago. Now the engine boiler is longer and the smoke-stack perfectly straight with the top the same size as the rest of it. The new device is arranged solely for a better protection against destruction of surrounding property by fire, caused from escaping sparks from the engines. Once the railway companies were in constant litigation from farmers who had lost fields of grain, wheat and hay stacks and even buildings and fences, all attributed to this cause. Enormous sums were annually paid out by the companies for damages from this source. Now it is practically impossible for a spark to ignite anything, and simply because when the engines or sparks leave the engine they are wet with steam and water, and furthermore they are expelled from a spout under the en-

gine directly on to the gavel bed of the road. Instead of the arrester being on top of the smoke-stack, it is now down in the body of the engine in front of the steam chest, and this accounts for the increased length of the machine. A cap filled with fine holes lies at the bottom of the stack and all cinders and sparks stop there, and before being expelled pass through a jet of steam and water. This simple device saves probably millions of dollars to the railway interests of the country every year.

RELATED TO WILLIAM.
Pat McKinley, one of the oldest shippers to the Union Stock Yard, has on the market one day last week, and to a group of the yards officials confessed that he was really a relative of the illustrious president of the United States. It must be so, for Pat, among many other admirable and praiseworthy traits, is an Irishman and a Republican, a combination supposed to be impossible. In fact Pat has no little pride in this unusual situation. He tells with great gusto of a time when he lived in Ohio, when in his neighborhood were forty-two of his countrymen, all Democrats but he, no threat or entreaty would prevail, and at once took to the water and came to his home to whip him into the Cleveland and Blaine campaign. "I would rather be scourged the length and breadth of old Ireland than to vote for spailpenn, Grover Cleveland." Like many of his people, he cordially hates Ireland and the English, and he justly reasons that Democracy and free trade help to enhance English interests. But as to his high born kindred. Without any cheap claims of distinction or unseemly boasting, he tells the simple tale which explains his relationship to the president. Three generations, the president's ancestors that Democracy and free trade help to enhance English interests. But as to his high born kindred. Without any cheap claims of distinction or unseemly boasting, he tells the simple tale which explains his relationship to the president. Three generations, the president's ancestors that Democracy and free trade help to enhance English interests. But as to his high born kindred. Without any cheap claims of distinction or unseemly boasting, he tells the simple tale which explains his relationship to the president. Three generations, the president's ancestors that Democracy and free trade help to enhance English interests. But as to his high born kindred. 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